

## Living Into Right Relations – September 2021

Hello,

Last week a few of us met to talk about what is on our minds in terms of Living Into Right Relations and how we might work together on next steps. Our conversation distilled into three main themes. One of these grew out of the new statutory holiday, the [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) on September 30. The purpose of the holiday is “to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.” How do we mark this? How/does the bringing to light of the many unmarked graves of children from residential schools this year impact how we respond to the TRC Calls to Action?

What actually happens with this day is up to each of us. Here are some thoughts:

1. A litany of lament from Ron Flaming. Copied with his permission at the end of this document and attached to the email. Also a service of lament with Anglican resources attached to the email.
2. Learn more about the Mohawk Institute, the residential school closest to us. (e.g., 6b, 7b below).
3. Listen to what is being discussed and dreamt about for a way forward (e.g., 6d, 6f)
4. Commit to re/reading the [Calls to Action](#) and choose one that you can lean into.

The other two themes that came out of our conversation were brainstorming kinds of shared educational opportunities this LIRR group might engage in, and grappling with relationships around land, land claims and the Haldimand Proclamation. More on these later.

Watch for events focussed on September 30. There was not much out there yet, but I'm sure there will be soon,

Nancy

### 1. Sept 20 - there's an election coming your way...

This is an important time to keep relations with Indigenous Peoples in the Canadian public eye and to find out what the candidates have to say.

Please see [CPJ's 2021 election bulletin](#), especially page 6 which has six questions to pose to candidates when they come knocking. There's also a downloadable version you can use and take to all-candidates meetings.

MCC also has an election guide with [further questions you can ask](#). Thanks, Henriette Thompson



If you would like one of these lawn signs contact [gladysbender@hotmail.com](mailto:gladysbender@hotmail.com).

Thanks.

2. [All Nations Grand River Water Walk](#) Sept 13 - 24 This year the walk will follow both sides of the Grand River. This is the final year of a 4 year journey.

3. [O:se Kenhionhata:tie](#) keep checking their Facebook page for information and events.

4. [1492 Land Back Lane](#) - Supportive actions

a. **Friday Lunches for 1492 LandBack Lane - Next delivery date: Oct. 8** Cash donations can be made through [Parkminster United Church](#). Please identify your donation as 1492 LandBack Lane. For more info or to lend a hand contact me at [nancydykstra@gmail.com](mailto:nancydykstra@gmail.com). **Thank you for your ongoing support!**

b. Support the [legal defense fund](#) that will be needed for the land defenders.

## 5. Supporting Indigenous businesses

a. [Uptown Waterloo Night Market](#) every Thursday 7-10 pm, weather permitting, from July 15th to September 30th. (In the Communitel parking lot, 14 Erb St)

b. <https://www.facebook.com/business/m/we-thrive> Each of the rows goes far to the right ... scroll through ... lots of wonderful stuff.... Thanks, Bev McNabb

c. The [Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business](#) (CCAB) has a database of Certified Aboriginal Businesses, members of the CCAB that you can use to source materials or business collaborators. This [link](#) is filtered for Ontario. There are nearly 500 businesses here. You can search by industry or keyword or just browse through the names. They have some non-Indigenous members so check for the 'Certified Aboriginal Business' logo when you click on their profile. Thank you, Kaira Jakobsh

## 6. Learning and events - online and in person!

a. **A focus on the Arts -**

i. **Sept. 2, 6 p.m** [In Conversation: The Two Row Wampum](#)

An invitation from Beverly McNabb, LIRR scout for all things related to the arts: "This is quite amazing- Rick Hill, Chief Thompson, Chief Mitchell, and Greg Hill, curator, in conversation about the Two Row Wampum. Happening because there is a Rembrandt exhibit at the NGC and they are programming around that. I hope some of you will be interested to join me in registering for the ZOOM talk. I think we will be able to have a rich conversation following the talk." Contact info for Beverly: [beverlymcnabb11@gmail.com](mailto:beverlymcnabb11@gmail.com)

ii. Two floating outdoor art pieces in Toronto:

1. [WIGWAM CHI-CHEMUNG](#) (Big House Canoe) is docked at the Ontario Place South Marina until October.

2. [Peacemaker's Canoe](#) is at the Harbourfront Park (Harbour Square Park Basin) until sometime in September. Good info on the history of Peacemaker in the link.

iii. [Beauty and Resilience: Indigenous Art in Canada](#) online. Part of Hot Docs' *Curious Minds Speaker Series*. Six lectures explore the many ways Indigenous artists have contributed to the vibrancy of Canada's visual art tradition.

iv. **KWAG** [Spider Woman](#) by local artist Terre Chartrand on the outside wall of

KWAG (K-W Art Gallery). Check it out!

- b. **Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14. 2-4 p.m.** Honouring the missing students of Indian Residential School System through community prayer and dialogue. Neenahnew Oskapewasik in partnership with Five Oaks. Registration [here](#).
- c. **Sept. 8 & 15, 7 p.m.** Mohawk Institute virtual tours. \$10 Donation [Register here](#).
- d. **Oct. 6, 7p.m.** Tanya Talaga, "Truth before Reconciliation" [First lecture of a revived series](#) presented by Woodland Cultural Centre Friends and Neighbours Group and Laurier Brantford. The goal of the lecture series is to educate people and promote a community dialog about the former Mohawk Institute Residential School and the need for reconciliation. Pandemic fact: This lecture was first planned for March 24, 2020 and attempted a second time last fall..... This time it's on Zoom!
- e. **Oct. 21-28** [Right Relations 2021](#)- planned collaboratively by Centre for Christian Studies and Sandy Saulteaux Centre
- f. Plenty of other events on [Eventbrite](#)!
- g. **In case you missed it...**  
[Bringing the Children Home](#) a series hosted by Candy Palmater, who moderated discussion in response to the continuing unveiling of unmarked childrens' graves. Created by [Reconciliation Canada](#).

## 7. Good Reads, News and Views

- a. The first Ogwehoweh Storytelling Festival happened on Aug 25 and 26. Here are the videos:  [Ogwehoweh Storytelling Festival Day 1](#)  [Ogwehoweh Storytelling Festival Day 2](#)
- b. Joesph Commanda memorial walk was held Aug 27-29, in memory of Joey who was struck by a train as he tried to escape the Mohawk Institute in 1968. Coverage:
  - i. [Doug George-Kanentiio: Wearing orange for Native residential school survivors](#)
  - ii. [Family to follow footsteps of 13-year-old who died fleeing Mohawk Institute residential school](#)
- c. 'Reservation Dogs' - new TV show getting great reviews. Not sure if you can actually access it yet in Canada! Interview with actress Devery Jacobs on [CBC](#).
- d. [Justice Murray Sinclair on the Royal Proclamation of 1763](#) *Not new, but worth sharing*—The Royal Proclamation was used as a basis for the Treaty of Niagara with over 2000 Indigenous representatives from all over North America. Murray Sinclair discusses how the proclamation and the treaty that followed can serve as a model of the type of relationship we can return to. Thanks, Henriette Thompson.

## **Litany for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

Leader: In gratitude to God who healed our broken relationship  
by reconciliation through Jesus Christ  
we receive a call to the Ministry of Reconciliation  
as a paradigm for healing broken relationships.

**All: Today we acknowledge:**

Leader: a dark side to the history of Canada.  
We settler peoples have reaped the benefits of the land  
by pushing aside Indigenous people in order to seize their land.

**All: Today we lament:**

Leader: the attempted erasure of Indigenous peoples by Canada  
through the Indian Act which criminalized the practice of traditions and cultures,  
and mandated the seizure and indoctrination of children in residential schools.

**All: Today we acknowledge we have no appropriate words,  
so we stand respectfully in silent lament:**

Leader: for the children who died while in custody of residential schools,  
died of active abuse,  
died of lonely hearts and separation from family.

**All: Today we acknowledge we have no appropriate words,  
so we stand in silent respect:**

Leader: for the families and communities who mourn,  
mourn their children who did not come home from residential schools,  
mourn the disruption of family and way of life,  
mourn the exploitation and desecration of their traditional lands.

*Pause in silence*

Leader: In gratitude to God who demonstrated the way of reconciliation with us,

**All: we commit to walking together in a new way,  
acknowledging the true history and place of Indigenous Peoples on this land,  
living with respect, listening and learning as we move forward  
on the path of true reconciliation.**

by Ron Flaming

Truth and Reconciliation Action Group, Waterloo North Mennonite Church

for further reading:

- *2Corinthians 5:17-19*
- *The Indian Act*  
[https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/1876\\_Indian\\_Act\\_Reduced\\_Size.pdf](https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/04/1876_Indian_Act_Reduced_Size.pdf)  
[https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/the\\_indian\\_act/](https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/the_indian_act/)
- *National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation* <https://nctr.ca/>